

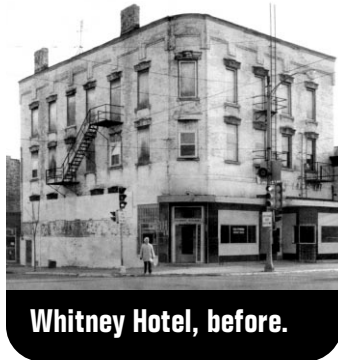
The Whitney

Building Address

101 S. Ludington Street

Owner

Heartland Affordable Housing —
Columbus Whitney, Inc.



Whitney Hotel, before.

History of Project

In 1845, H.A. Whitney, a Yankee peddler from Vermont, constructed the first wood frame store building in Columbus

on the land where the Whitney now stands. The building served as a combination store/tavern/rooming house and post office. Mr. Whitney was the first postmaster. In 1857, the building burned down and was replaced by the current Whitney Hotel in 1858. This cream brick, Italianate-style hotel soon earned the reputation of being a first-rate establishment. The third floor boasted a ballroom heated by six wood-burning stoves. The local newspaper reported on a ball sponsored by the owner of the building in 1863 (during the Civil War), “if you ever hear of a ball by Fuller, ask no questions, but go at once, and enjoy yourselves, and for one night forget the ‘fear of the draft.’”

During the 1880s, the Whitney hosted some colorful traveling health practitioners whose expertise ranged from “delivering a 40-foot long tape worm” to a local couple to curing piles. Near the turn-of-the-century, the ballroom was turned into an apartment and from then on served as commercial, professional, and apartment space.

In the 1950s, a triple-A restaurant and bar was in the first floor of the building that attracted people from miles around. From the 1960s to the present, a rapid succession of owners occupied the building and maintenance was deferred. The Whitney was red-flagged in 1990, and there was much talk in the city about tearing it down.



The Whitney Hotel, after.

Scope of Project

Concerned citizens formed a non-profit group in 1990 called Columbus Downtown Development Corporation (CDDC). The group raised \$103,000 from the community to help save the building. The CDDC entered into a joint venture with Heartland to rehabilitate the Whitney for housing and historic tax credits. The two upper floors now contain eight apartments, and the first floor is commercial space. The entire façade was rehabilitated, and the original front bay was recreated.

Contractors

Vogel Bros., Madison, WI

Architect

Glueck Architects

Cost

\$726,000

For more information, call the Wisconsin Main Street Program at (608) 266-7531.

19

93

